

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 2, 2015

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Wes Adams, Anne Bean, Barbara Bond, Lou Gieszl, Gary Hofmann, Steve Kelly, Molly Knipe, Patricia Marshall, Scott Beard for Cindy Pease, Alonzo Robertson, Chris Shank, Debra Tall and Jeanne Yeager

STAFF: Kim Herndon, Monique Mitchell and Laurie Rajala

GUESTS: Sherry Baynes, Michael Cohen, Lisae Jordan, and Amy Steinly-Marks

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: Steve Kelly, Chair of the Board began the meeting at approximately 10:08 a.m. and introduced Lou Geiszl, the representative for the Administration of the Courts

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- ❖ **Motion:** Move to approve Minutes of September 9, 2015 Board Meeting.
 - **Corrections**
 - Legislative item #2, strike “opposed to how it has been handled in the past”.
 - Open Forum item #2, “it is suggested that the future of the Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board should be discussed at the retreat”, amend it to say “it was suggested Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board be discussed at the retreat”.
- ❖ **Vote:** Seconded and unanimously approved

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- ❖ **Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), Chris Shank.**
 - **Overview**
 - Senate Bill 605 convened a committee of twenty-one (21) stakeholders in Maryland.
 - Representatives from State’s Attorney’s Offices, Sheriff’s Association, Attorney General, Department of Public Safety, Department of Juvenile Services, Judges, etc.
 - The purpose of the committee is to examine the entire criminal justice system throughout the State and determine how the State is spending resources, how resources can be spent better, how can resources be reinvested to reduce recidivism.
 - The Committee has three subcommittees; Release, Sentencing and Supervision
 - The Committee has worked closely with Pew Charitable Trust.
 - If Maryland approves the Bill for Justice Reinvestment this initiative could save the State 1500 beds per year for non violent criminals; specifically those who are in custody because of drug treatment offenses and technical probation and parole violations.
 - The resources saved from this initiative can be reinvested to improve public safety and victim services.
 - Victim restitution and victim notification were two areas that were consistently recommended for improvement.
 - Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, data collection and trainings were other areas that were recommended for improvement.
- ❖ **Maryland Victim of Crime Fund (MVOC), Laurie Rajala**
 - **Overview**
 - By Statute, The Board is responsible for approving recommendations for the funding out of the MVOC fund.
 - The Board had agreed to fund three year grants for \$35,000 per year. Awarding grantees a three year award totaling \$105,000.

- In FY2015, the Board voted on a grant to assist an agency as an emergency bail out. This bailout, in addition to other grants being funded \$35,000 caused the fund balance to drop.
- The Board voted not to award any new grants for FY2016 and continue its commitment for second and third year awards.
- The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention's fiscal department is recommending the Board award \$35,000 grants for one year until the fund is restored.
 - This recommendation is based on income revenue fluctuating annually.
- **Discussion**
 - Several questions were raised in response to the recommendations
 - It was suggested that an ad-hoc committee be created to determine the best fiscal practices for the MVOC funds and grant awards.
 - **Motion:** To appoint Jeanne Yeager as Chair of the ad-hoc committee.
 - **Vote:** Seconded and unanimously approved
- ❖ **Mandated Brochures**
 - The Board voted via email to approve the changes to the State mandated brochures to include information on "Shielding" and "DNA".
 - The brochures have been ordered.
 - Information on Maryland Electronic Court System has not been included on the updated brochures and forms because the system is not available statewide at this time.
- ❖ **Governor's Luncheon**
 - It was suggested that during National Crime Victim's Rights Week, a Victim's Rights Conference be held and include a luncheon where three wards be presented to show appreciation and recognition for outstanding work on behalf of crime victims.
 - The luncheon will be outsourced
- ❖ **Strategic Planning Retreat**
 - The Retreat will be held in February, staff will continue to search for a venue.
 - Motion: To reallocate administrative funds to fund the Retreat
 - Vote: Seconded and Unanimously decided
- ❖ **VINE**
 - Monique Mitchell, VINE Program Manager asked Board members to continue to make the public aware of the VINE program
 - A brief introduction to an Appriss product, which will eliminate victims having to re-register for each step of the criminal justice process (detention, DOC, Courts, P&P, etc.)
- ❖ **Meeting Adjourned:** Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:12pm.